

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ECON EAID EG US
SUBJ: SADAT VISIT: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR NEW
CITIES

REF: CAIRO 3839

1. REFTEL REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH SADAT CITY
PLANNING GROUP IN WHICH IT WAS LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT
SADAT MIGHT BE PLANNING TO RAISE POSSIBILITY OF U.S.
ASSISTANCE FOR NEW EGYPTIAN CITIES, STUDIES FOR WHICH
MINISTRY OF RECONSTRUCTION HAS COMMISSIONED OVER PAST
THREE YEARS. THREE NEW CITIES ARE BEING PLANNED FOR
CONSTRUCTION IN DESERTS EAST AND WEST OF CAIRO. NO
EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, HAS MENTIONED TO US POSSI-
BILITY THAT THIS SUBJECT MIGHT BE RAISED DURING SADAT
VISIT TO U.S.

2. IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT DURING
CONVERSATION MARCH 29, SADAT CITY PLANNING DIRECTOR
KISE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH MINISTER OF
HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION (MOHR) EARLIER THAT DAY TO GO
OVER REPORT WHICH WAS TO BE SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT ON
VARIOUS NEW CITY PLANS WHICH PRESIDENT WILL CARRY WITH
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HIM TO U.S. KISE PRESUMES THAT IT IS STILL GOE
INTENTION TO HAVE SADAT RAISE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION
IN NEW CITES DURING HIS VISIT. HE WAS UNSURE, HOW-
EVER, WHETHER IT WOULD BE IN CONTEXT OF TRYING TO
PROMOTE PRIVATE INVESTMENT OR WHETHER IT WOULD BE IN
FORM OF REQUESTS FOR OFFICIAL AMERICAN ASSISTANCE.
REFTEL MENTIONED SADAT CITY GROUP'S DESIRE TO HAVE USE

OF EXCESS CURRENCY FUNDS TO MEET CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

3. BASES ON THESE RECURRING INDICATIONS THAT MOHR
AT LEAST, STILL ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER PAPER FOR
SADAT'S USE WHILE IN U.S., BELIEVE STATE/AID VISIT
PLANNERS SHOULD DEVELOP POSITION, IF SADAT RAISES
MATTER, FOR INSTANCE DURING MEETING WITH AID ADMINISTRATOR
GILLIGAN. REALIZING THAT HOUSING AND RELATED URBAN
PROBLEMS ARE AMONG GOVERNMENTS'S MAJOR CONCERNS, WE
CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT DISCUSSIONS OF DIRECT AMERICAN
PARTICIPATION IN THESE PROJECTS IS PREMATURE BECUASE
EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES HAVE NOT MADE BASIC DECISIONS
WHICH WOULD INDICATE GOE WILLING TO FULLY SUPPORT
ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF THESE NEW CITIES. FOR
EXAMPLE, DECISION HAS YET TO BE TAKEN ON PLACEMENT OF
MAJOR INDUSTRY AT SADAT CITY. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE
WILLING TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF
PARTICIPATION IF PRESIDENT INDICATES PROJECTS HAVE HIGH
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY AND WE ARE SO INFORMED OFFICIALLY.
EILTS

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